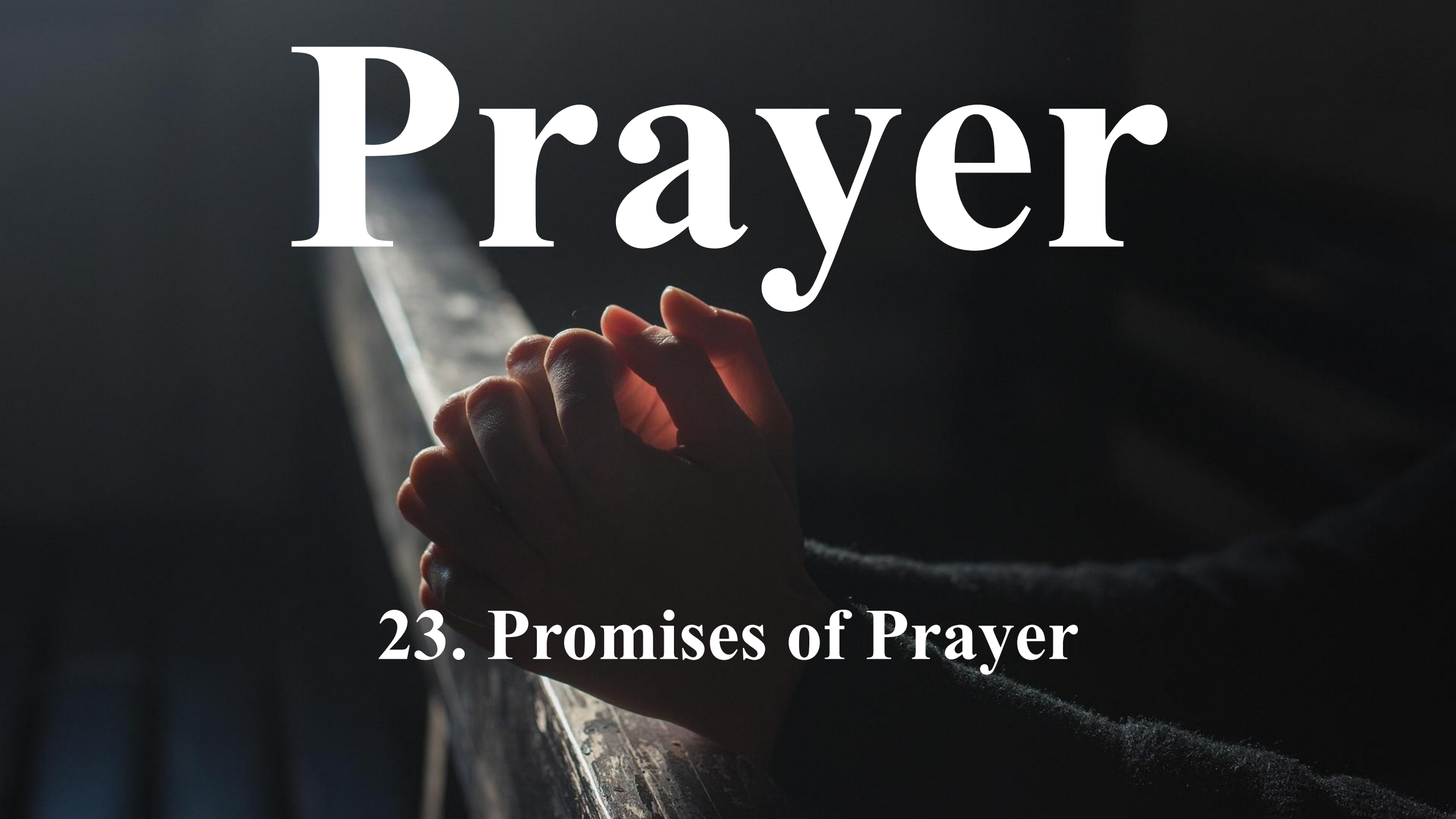


Prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned in the lower center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A strong, diagonal beam of light from the upper left corner illuminates the hands, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows of the surrounding environment. The person is wearing a dark, textured garment, possibly a robe or sweater, which is visible at the bottom right. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands and the light.

23. Promises of Prayer

Luke 11:9 "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Meaning: God's Word is a great help in prayer. It allows us to pray according to His will. It was E. M. Bounds who said, "There is no limit to the provisions included in the promises to prayer, and no exclusion from it's promises." If we but ask, seek, and knock, we have been promised it shall be given, shall be found, and it shall be opened unto us. Since God "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2) the Bible is a coupon book ready to give to those who ask, according to what He has promised.

Application: Prayer puts our faith in the promises of God into practice. Faith is simply taking God at His Word, and "**believing, ye shall receive**" (Matthew 21:22). Even though God's promises are "exceeding great and precious" (II Peter 1:4), without prayer, they are like fruit within reach that goes unpicked. Prayer takes hold of the promise! Great things can happen as a result of God's promises and the Christian's prayers. The Bible and prayer go together, they compliment one another. The Bible gives us the unction to pray, and prayer gives us the answer that has been promised.

Other Verses for Study: Jeremiah 29:12, 13; Matthew 21:22; Luke 11:10; John 14:14; 15:7; James 4:2, 3; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:22

1. God cannot _____.

2. Faith is simply what?

3. _____ takes hold of the _____.

"By taking hold of the Promiser, prayer releases the personal promise."